



GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWSLETTER

OFFICE OF LT. GOVERNOR BARBARA O'BRIEN

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ISSUE I

Upcoming Dates

**Cesar Chavez
Day of Service and
Learning**
Saturday, March 27

**Commission
Meeting**
Friday, April 9
Johnson & Wales
University

AmeriCorps Week
May 8-15, 2010

**Commission
Meeting
(Conference Call)**
Friday, May 14

**2010 Governor's
Service Awards**
Friday, May 14

**Commission
Meeting**
Friday, June 11
Johnson & Wales
University

**National
Conference on
Volunteerism and
Service**
June 28-30, 2010

Colorado Honors the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Everyone can be great, because everyone can serve." Coloradans proved their greatness by making the 2010 MLK Day of Service the largest event of its kind in Colorado thus far. Colorado saw over 60 projects statewide, with as many as 3,000 people volunteering over 12,000 hours. Projects ranged from working with children, elderly, and homeless, to picking up trash, painting, and weeding.

In addition to the MLK Day of Service held on January 18, 2010, the 25th Annual MLK Parade in Denver saw over 30,000 Coloradans turnout. Many State and City elected officials, as well as community leaders were in attendance. Governor Bill Ritter Jr., Lt. Governor Barbara O'Brien, and Mayor John Hickenlooper were just a few of the influential speakers at the event in City Park.



**GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON
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WWW.COLORADO.GOV/GCCS



The Governor's Commission on Community Service would like to thank all of the organizations and individuals who contributed to the 2010 MLK Day of Service. It is through the hard work and efforts of each of you that helped make this the largest MLK Day of Service to date. GCCS would also like to send a special thanks to Kaiser Permanente, who sponsored the Annual MLK Day of Service Report. Kaiser Permanente employees also participated in over 10 projects in Colorado!

For more information, please contact Meaghan Mills at meaghan.mills@state.co.us.

"BUILDING A CULTURE OF CITIZENSHIP, SERVICE, AND RESPONSIBILITY IN COLORADO"



BILL RITTER JR.
GOVERNOR



BARBARA O'BRIEN
LT. GOVERNOR

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SERVICE PROJECT
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ELE MEYERS
WORKFORCE CENTER
COORDINATOR VISTA

Planning Underway for the Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning

In 1962, Cesar Chavez founded the first successful farm workers' union in American history. He led the historic non-violent movement for farm worker rights and dedicated himself to building a movement of



poor working people that extended beyond the fields and into the cities and towns across the nation. For hundreds of thousands of farm workers, Chavez achieved: dignity and respect, fair wages, medical coverage, pension benefits, humane living conditions, and countless other rights and protections. He inspired farm workers and millions of people who never worked on a farm to commit themselves to social, economic, and civil rights activism.

To commemorate Cesar Chavez's life and legacy, the Governor's Commission on Community Service (GCCS) is launching a statewide effort promoting the Cesar Chavez Day of Service on March 27, 2010. Similar to the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, GCCS is developing an on-line state registry for organizations to list their events and for volunteers to identify a project to participate in. The registry can be found at www.colorado.gov/gccs.

In addition to the Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning, the following events will honor the life and legacy of Cesar Chavez:

March 25- GCCS with the support of the Denver Office of Strategic Partnerships, Denver Census 2010, and Colorado Humanities proudly presents "The Stories of Cesar Chavez," a one man show developed and performed by Fred Blanco.

Time & Location: 6:00pm - Wellington E. Webb Municipal Office Building, 1st Floor Atrium

March 27- The Cesar Chavez Peace and Justice Committee of Denver will host the 9th Annual Cesar Chavez Celebration. The day's events include:

Mass: 10:00am - St. Joseph's Church at 6th and Galapago

March: 11:00am - Marching from 7th and Santa Fe Drive

Main Event: 12:00pm - Su Teatro at Denver Civic Theatre (721 Santa Fe Drive)

For more information, please contact Meaghan Mills at meaghan.mills@state.co.us or 303.866.6013.

Volunteers Will be Honored at the 2010 Governor's Service Awards



The Governor's Commission on Community Service will host the 2010 Governor's Service Awards on Friday, May 14, 2010. The Award Ceremony will be a part of Colorado's AmeriCorps Week Activities. The Governor's awards will be presented in honor to individuals, organizations, and AmeriCorps Members for their outstanding contribution, dedication and hard work in the areas of Civic Engagement, Community Service and Volunteerism.

This will be the 3rd anniversary of the current Governor's Service Award format. Last year, First Lady Jeanie Ritter presented 11 awards on the State Capitol steps. "It is heartwarming to see organizations and individuals give so much of their time to the people of Colorado," said First Lady Jeannie Ritter. Event and nomination information for the 2010 Governor's Service Awards is available at www.colorado.gov/gccs.

AmeriCorps Week Celebrates Its 4th Year in Colorado

The 4th AmeriCorps Week will take place May 8-15, 2010. It will be an opportunity for AmeriCorps members, alums, grantees, program partners, and friends to shine a spotlight on the work done by members in communities across the country. The national goal of AmeriCorps week is to motivate more Americans to join AmeriCorps or volunteer in their communities.

In year's past, Colorado held the first ever AmeriCorps Week Launch with a service project at Red Rocks Park and Amphitheater. Past events also include the Governor's Service Awards, AmeriCorps Night at the Rockies baseball game, and the Life After AmeriCorps (LAFTA) conference.

Events are currently being planned across the State of Colorado for this year's celebration. With an increase in AmeriCorps programs operating in Colorado this year there will be many first time AmeriCorps Week participants. The commission is working towards making this year the largest AmeriCorps Week Colorado has witnessed.

To learn more about AmeriCorps Week or AmeriCorps Colorado programs, please visit www.colorado.gov/gccs.



InterCorps Council Colorado



InterCorps Council Colorado (ICC) made its first appearance in over eight years at the 2009 State Service Conference. ICC is a member-driven group whose mission is to serve as a resource and support system for Colorado's national service members. Brochures and activities were prepared to inform and energize national service members about the ICC mission and goals.

An informational conference call was held on October 29th with the goal of further informing national service members on what ICC is and how they can get involved. A follow up questionnaire was sent out after the call asking the question: "As a national service member, what is the most important ICC can do for you?" The overwhelming response has been: to create a network that will connect national service members across all branches in the state of Colorado.

For more information and updates visit the ICC webpage: <http://www.colorado.gov/gccs/icc.htm>.

2009-2010 Colorado AmeriCorps*State Programs

ACE Colorado Youth Leadership Initiative- AmeriCorps Program

America's Children's Education Foundation
719.583.7860

Boys and Girls Club Outreach and Enrichment Initiative

Boys and Girls Club of Larimer County
Statewide • 719.580.0379

CENTUS Healthy Family Initiative

Centus Counseling, Consulting & Education
Denver, CO • 303.639.5240

Colorado Asset Building Coalition Project

Advocates for Young Adults
Denver, CO • 720.363.5131

Colorado HIPPY Corps

Colorado Parent and Child Foundation
Statewide • 303.860.6000

Colorado Youth Corps Education Awards Program

Colorado Youth Corps Association
Statewide • 303.860.6000

Colorado Youth Corps Leadership & Conservation Program

Year One Inc., dba Mile High Youth Corps
Statewide • 303.433.1206

Community Partnerships for Youth in Transition

City and County of Denver
Denver, CO • 720.944-1006

Energize La Plata

Southern Ute Community Action Program
Durango, CO 970.563.4517, ext. 208

Mesa State College AmeriCorps Program

Mesa State College
Grand Junction, CO • 970.248.1874

PCC AmeriCorps Program

Pueblo Community College
Pueblo, CO 719.549.3244

Regional Substance Abuse Prevention Program (RSAPP/SCYC) AmeriCorps Program

Montezuma County Partners
Cortez, CO • 970.529.7139

Saguache United Methodist Church AmeriCorps Program

United Methodist Church of Center
Center, CO • 719.256.4662

The School Based Mentoring Program

Partners in Routt County
Steamboat, CO • 970.879.6141

Urban Education Service Corps

Denver Public Schools
Denver, CO • 720.839.2473

Weld County Youth Conservation Corps

Board of Weld County Commissioners
Greeley, CO • 970.353.3800, ext. 3362

The ActionWorks Program Prepares for Release of Toolkit



The ActionWorks toolkit, which is a guide for volunteer and workforce centers on volunteering and employability, is currently in its finishing stages. The GCCS plans to launch the toolkit through a series of workshops & community forums throughout the state.

The GCCS and Frisco Workforce Center will host the first workshops at the Colorado Mountain College in Dillon, Colorado on April 2, 2010. To receive more information about steps ahead or the opportunity to participate in a workshop, please contact Eleanor Meyer at, Eleanor.Meyer@state.co.us.

ActionWorks is also active through a number of career and volunteer fairs. ActionWorks recently participated in career fairs at Naropa University in Boulder, Mi Casa Resource Center in Denver, Spice of Life in Boulder, and Twin Peaks Mall in Longmont.

CSV Celebrates it's First Anniversary

The Colorado State VISTA Program (CSV) is celebrating its one year anniversary. The CSV Program began in February 2009 with only four sites. Since the program's start, CSV has:

- Recruited **15,910** community volunteers who served **52,464** hours of community service
- Developed **\$15,450** worth of cash and non-cash resources for their host sites
- Created and promoted approximately **200** service projects throughout the state

The CSV VISTA members have created or worked on projects, programs, and service days such as ActionWorks, Work Life, Colorado Cares Day, Pathways Past Poverty, the 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance, the Colorado State Service Conference, and H1N1 Vaccination Clinics.

In October 2009, during the Colorado State Service Conference, the CSV VISTA members along with 400 fellow AmeriCorps members, "Left their mark in Estes Park" by building a mile long hiking path on the YMCA of the Rockies Campus.

Outside of work hours, the members remain dedicated to a life of service by participating in charity marathons, working at after school programs, collecting donations for organizations that help low-income individuals, conducting mock interviews with high school youth, and supporting the non-profit organizations that they have come to meet during their work through CSV.

The VISTA members, host sites, and supervisors have helped Colorado be better prepared for disasters, better equipped to provide low income individuals with the services they need, and in a better position to help those in search of employment.



The Colorado State VISTA Program Partners

Adventist Community Services (ACS) / Colorado
Volunteer Organization Active in Disasters
(COVOAD)
303.935.7389

Colorado Volunteer Center Network (CVCN)
(Operated by Metro Volunteers)
303.282.1234

Governor's Commission on Community Service
303.866.6426

Jefferson County Workforce Center
720.519.3056

Pueblo City/County Health Department
719.583.9904

Telluride Foundation
970.728.8717

United Way Larimer County /
Larimer County 211
970.407.7051 / 970.407.7052

United Way Weld County
970.353.4300

From the Commission Chair

Dear Friends in Service,

Recently, I visited Manual High School in Denver, and spoke to students there about Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy through service. Besides having an fun time with the energetic students there, the experience gave me a great opportunity to reflect on the impact that service has on so many. Dr. King didn't begin the Civil Rights Movement as a civil right movement, but as a movement to get people civically engaged in their communities. He spoke about the importance of community service as a method for building a community. It was from these principals that his message was able to expand not only to his surrounding communities, but also beyond it to an entire nation.

As we begin this New Year, I am excited to be a part of the Commission and the National movement in service. As volunteerism and civic engagement increases around the state and throughout the nation, we have an opportunity improve our communities and together collectively build a better Colorado. Let's not lose sight of the life and legacy of Dr. King, but instead lets take advantage of this moment to make a difference in our neighborhoods, our state, and our nation.

As Dr. King said, "Everyone can be great because everyone can serve." By working together, I believe that we can accomplish great things.

Sincerely,



Lindsay Morgan Tracy
Chair, Governor's Commission on Community Service



From the Desk of the Executive Director

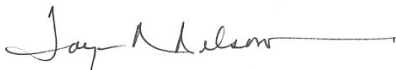
New developments for the New Year...

As the New Year unfolds, 2010 promises to be an exciting year for volunteerism and community service programs in Colorado. Unlike other government programs, GCCS is experiencing a modest increase in administrative and program development operating funds, providing new resources to help us expand support services and programs. Some exciting developments for 2010 include:

- Colorado's AmeriCorps*State program is administering a \$3.9million state program portfolio, including formula, supplemental and ARRA funds, with 17 operating, planning and education award programs. This represents Colorado's largest AmeriCorps*State program to date.
- The new 2010-2012 GCCS Unified State Service Plan will guide program and funding priorities and program development plans for GCCS for the next three years.
- Three new focus areas have been adopted by the Commission: services for job seekers; veterans corps program development,; and a new service plan for service by adults age 55 and older. These new focus areas will guide new program development activities over the next three years.

We are energized by the passage last year of the historic Kennedy Serve America Act and President Obama's commitment to support expanding the AmeriCorps program as a service strategy to meet human, education, health and social needs in our country. You are invited to join us this year as we embark on a new and exciting journey in national and community service!

Many thanks to all of you for your service,



Toya M. Nelson
Executive Director
Governor's Commission on Community Service

